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Our Paper: Serving the Alternative Community

Periodicals

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3-1987

## Our Paper 03/1987

Our Paper

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# Our Paper

FREE

Vol. 4, No. 7

March, 1987

A  
VOICE  
FOR  
LESBIANS  
AND  
GAY MEN  
IN MAINE

## High-Risk Insurance Plan Being Discussed

By Brenda Buchanan

Legislators working to make certain that people at risk for AIDS are not denied health and life insurance have come up with a plan that would serve a broader constituency. The proposal that the state establish a high-risk insurance pool was scheduled for a public hearing Feb. 24 (after *Our Paper* went to press) and it was hoped representatives of other groups that have difficulty obtaining insurance would lend their voices to the effort to create the pool.

Rep. Charlene Rydell, D-Brunswick, said before the hearing that she hoped representatives of associations for people with chronic diseases, such as diabetes, cystic fibrosis and lung ailments, would speak out about their needs for health and life insurance. She said that although the high-risk pool study committee was formed because of questions raised by AIDS activists, she and others realized there is a much wider constituency for a high-risk pool.

"We really hope that the hearing will demonstrate that this is not an AIDS bill," Rydell said.

The first hurdle for proponents of the pool will be to convince the Legislature

that there is a need for it. It is the position of the committee that studied the issue that insurance coverage should be available to all people at a reasonable cost. In its report, the committee said the number of people considered "uninsurable" is rising, as advances in medical science extend life expectancy, help people to recover from illnesses and accidents that once were likely to cause death, and provide for early diagnosis of serious conditions.

To address the public policy issue of having an ever-larger segment of society being unable to obtain health and life insurance, the committee proposes that the state establish insurance programs that would make high risk coverage available at a cost that would probably be about one-and-a-half times that of an average-risk person.

The committee's assumption, which is based on surveys of "uninsurables," is that people at risk for AIDS and other illnesses would be willing to pay higher premiums for insurance, in order to protect themselves against the financial devastation of paying for medical care out-of-pocket.

"There are Maine people in all parts of the state with varying health problems who need this sort of program," Rydell said.

While there was consensus on the seven-member committee about the need for a high-risk pool, there was not total agreement about how to pay for such a program.

Rydell and Rep. Larry Connolly, Jr., D-Portland, differed with the majority on the funding strategy recommendation. They believe that for-profit and non-profit insurers ought to be taxed to pay for the pool. The other members of the committee—Sens. Beverly Bustin, Barbara Gill and Charlotte Sewall, Rep. Peter Manning and former Rep. Merle Nelson—think a general fund appropriation would be a better method.

According to the committee's report, those favoring a general fund appropriation believe that it reflects the notion that society as a whole is responsible for its citizens, so a direct subsidy by the state is the most honest way to pay the costs.

The opponents believe something as important as accessibility to insurance should not have to compete for funding each legislative session. Rydell said she does not think it would be wrong if the insurance companies directly passed on to customers the cost of their high-risk pool assessment, as long as their support for the program becomes institutionalized.

"We should all bear the small added cost it would mean to ensure coverage to those with health problems," she said. "If it were a general fund appropriation it would be competing with a whole lot of other things and the competition is always intense for funds," she said.

## Condom Ads In Maine? Maybe.

by Fred Berger

As AIDS spreads slowly into the heterosexual population, the national and local media are being forced to reconsider their policies forbidding the advertising of condoms, one product which greatly reduces the chance of AIDS transmission during sexual intercourse. Advertisements for condoms have appeared on a handful of television stations and in some national news magazines. The *New York Times* recently reversed its established policy and will print an ad for LifeStyles condoms in the March 1 edition of *The New York Times Magazine*.

Could it happen here? To date there has been no condom advertising in the Maine media. However, in a survey of all six TV stations, nine daily and weekly newspapers, and two monthly magazines, *Our Paper* found that some organizations are actively working to develop a policy on condom advertising. Others have not addressed the issue and do not believe they will need to in the near future. All of those questioned reported that they have not yet been approached by condom marketers.

Among Maine's six commercial television stations, southern Maine's three stations are most actively debating the issue within their editorial and advertising departments. Although all three networks have policies against accepting ads for condoms, local affiliates are not bound by the network guidelines. While the stations are currently abiding by the network policy, interviewed representatives of stations WGME (Ch. 13, Portland), WCSH (Ch. 6, Portland) and WMTW (Ch. 8, Auburn), were all very aware of the condom debate and appeared concerned about responsibly serving their audience.

Lew Colby, General Manager of WCSH, says that he is currently involved in a series of meetings to open a dialogue on the condom issue. Colby says the question then would be whether the best means to educate the public would be through public service announcements, public affairs programs, or the acceptance of condom ads. Colby stated also that he hopes to involve the public, particularly the gay community and religious groups, in making the decision and that WCSH would issue a press release when its final policy is determined.

At WGME, station executives are also reviewing their current policy. General Sales Manager Bill Whitten says they are looking at the condom advertising question from the viewpoint of public safety (AIDS prevention) rather than contraception. He said this focus "Makes it more palatable to our viewers. Because of the need for education we owe it to our viewers to provide the publicity," Whitten said. He

continued on page 6

## Plea Bargain Ends Assault Case

By Brenda Buchanan

A South Portland man charged in connection with assaults on two women outside Portland's women's bar last September pleaded guilty on Feb. 19 to one count of assault in exchange for the dismissal of the second count.

David Deschaine, 21, will pay a fine and restitution to one of the women he struck, according to the terms of the plea bargain. The agreement between Deschaine and the women who were assaulted, Judy Nevers and Jamie Scott, was negotiated by an assistant district attorney whose name was not available at press time.

Nevers, who owns the women's bar Entre Nous, said after the court hearing that she was satisfied with the outcome of the case. She dropped the charge related to the assault on her because she was not injured as severely as Scott. Four of Scott's teeth were broken, her jaw was fractured and some of her ribs were bruised. She said it cost her \$1,500 for dental repair work.

The restitution ordered by the court as part of the plea bargain is \$250. It must be paid by through the Cumberland County District Attorney's office.

Nevers said Scott has contacted a lawyer and plans to file civil suit in order to recover the remainder of her dental costs.

The fine levied by the court was \$500 with all but \$100 suspended, which means that Deschaine will pay only \$100. Sus-

pension of part of a fine is common practice, especially when it is the defendant's first offense. It was Deschaine's first; that and the fact that he has undergone treatment for substance abuse since the assaults probably would have led to a light sentence if the case had gone to trial and he'd been convicted, Nevers said the assistant DA told her.

She said she is aware of the realities of the legal system, and believes the plea bargain will do more to force Deschaine to take responsibility for his behavior than a court-imposed sentence would have.

She said the agreement ensures that the assault will be on Deschaine's record, so if he ever commits another crime, a pattern will be apparent to authorities. If the case had gone to trial, there was no guarantee he would have been found guilty, she said, especially because the best witness was not at the trial because she had not been summoned.

In fact, summonses were not served on Nevers and Scott before the hearing. They read about the court date in *Our Paper* and simply went to the courthouse that day. When they inquired at the DA's office about why they had not been contacted, they were told that summonses had been sworn out Feb. 13. As it turned out, only one witness had been served with the notice to appear in court.

There was no opportunity before deadline to speak with someone in the DA's

office about the failure of witnesses and victims to receive summonses.

The assault, which occurred September 6, came at the end of a summer of frequent assaults and harassment for lesbians and

continued on page 6



Inside  
Norwegian novelist Gerd Brantenberg

photo: Elze



To the Editor:

A brief response to a couple of items in the February issue of *Our Paper*:

Kathryn Baptista mourns the death of two "progressive" bookstores — Wise Woman Books and Our Books. They were good places, and I too am sorry to see them go. But what Portland, and other parts of Maine, needs is not necessarily bookstores (which, as Kathryn knows, involve a large financial investment to survive) but a source of books. Something like the Women's Community Project could meet some of that need eventually, and a wall of the *Our Paper* office or maybe the basement of 9 Deering Street could house a library of those books that individuals have at home that are gathering dust. A small grant or investment could keep you supplied with current publications.

On the issue of gay/lesbian marriage laws (Global Gayzette section) one simple recommendation is to use the term "spouse" instead of "wife" or "husband" when speaking about married people. My spouse and I are trying to get into that habit. It won't change the laws (which I have been able to ignore anyway without harm), but it may help to change our thinking.

Larry Dansinger  
Stillwater, Maine

## IN MEMORIAM

**Nancy A. Gentile**  
**May 10, 1950-January 24, 1987**

Visionary, advocate, activist, daughter, lover, friend, companion, woman warrior, peacekeeper, laughmaker, believer.

*You become a part of  
what you made,  
for in it was  
your beauty,  
your wisdom,  
your pride\**

Maine's progressive communities have suffered a profound loss with the sudden death of Nancy Gentile in a car accident January 24.

Long a loud and strong advocate for battered women in the state, Nancy was instrumental in the growth of the Spruce Run Association in Bangor and the founding of the Maine Coalition for Family Crisis Services.

Nancy is fondly remembered by some as the accompanist in "Oklahoma," Maine's first all-gay/lesbian musical which was performed at the 1978 Maine Gay and Lesbian Symposium (and little do many know, she co-authored the Dyke Patrol anthem).

At the time of her death, she was the executive director of Parents Anonymous of Maine and involved in many activities addressing the problems of child abuse and other forms of domestic violence.

Also a peace activist, Nancy was a member of the Bucksport Area Peace Action Committee and a 1986 Witness for Peace delegate to Nicaragua.

Nancy is missed by her many friends, family members, colleagues, her companion Roberta, and by feminist, peace, and gay/lesbian activists throughout Maine and beyond.

*now you have left, and you can wander  
will you tell whoever could listen  
tell all the voices who speak to younger women  
tell all the voices who speak to us when we need it  
that the love between women is a circle  
and is not finished\*\**

\*From "Rug of Woven Magic," by Nan Benally in *A Gathering of Spirit*, (Sinister Wisdom 22/23).

\*\*From "A Funeral Plainsong from a Younger Woman to an Older Woman by Judy Grahn (*Lesbian Poetry*, 1981).



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## PURPOSE

OUR PAPER is published monthly by the OUR PAPER Collective, P.O. Box 10744, Portland, Maine 04104. The purpose of OUR PAPER is to serve as a voice for lesbians and gay men in Maine. We wish the newspaper to be a source of information, support and affirmation, and a vehicle for celebration, by and for members of the lesbian and gay men's communities. We want the paper to reflect our diversity as well.

## EDITORIAL POLICY

We will consider for publication any material that broadens our understanding of our lifestyles and of each other. Views and opinions appearing in the paper are those of the authors only.

We request that all material submitted be signed and include an address and/or phone number so we can contact the author if editorial revisions need to be considered. We reserve the right to edit unsigned material as necessary. Within the pages of the newspaper, articles can appear anonymously, upon request, and strict confidentiality will be observed. No revisions or rejections of signed material will occur without dialogue with the author.

Even though our editorials are initiated, they represent the opinion of all collective members.

We welcome and encourage all our readers to submit material for publication and to share your comments, criticisms and positive feelings with us. Remember, OUR PAPER is Your Paper!!! Deadline for each issue is the 10th of the month.

## SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions are \$12 for one year (12 issues), \$20 for two years, and \$30 for three years. Make checks payable to "OUR PAPER". All submissions and correspondence should be sent to OUR PAPER, P.O. Box 10744, Portland, Maine 04104.

## OUR PAPER COLLECTIVE

Fred Berger	Barb Puls
Skip Brushaber	Dawn Patterson
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Diane Elze	Bruce Smith
Terri Jones	Kathryn Baptista
Barb Leclerc	P.S. Sutherland
	Barbara Wood

## Picket Mass. Gov. Michael Dukakis

Show your support for a nondiscriminatory, nonhomophobic foster care policy.

Join the Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance in picketing Dukakis at his first political appearance in Maine.

**Where:** Italian Heritage Center, Outer Congress Street (next to Westgate Shopping Center)

**When:** Sunday, March 15th, 5:00 p.m.

For further info, contact: MLGPA, P.O. Box 108, Yarmouth, ME 04096

## Have You Ever Wanted to Change Your Name?

Perhaps you've always thought yourself more of an Athena than an Annmarie, or a Butch rather than a Burton. We at *Our Paper* know the feeling. These days, we feel more like a *Radical Journal* or a *Gay Trib* or a *Striving-to-be Free Press*.

We've reached consensus that it's time to change our name, but aren't even close to deciding upon a new one. We do think our readers should have a say. Drop us a note with your suggestion. If it's chosen, we just may give you an honorary press card, if you have a fedora to tuck it in.

*Call me, maybe it's late but just call me . . .*

— Petula Clark

You can now call us anytime at 773-2294. If we're not here, our machine (which, like the phone, we share with the Feminist Spiritual Community) will take your message, and someone will get back to you.

— The *Our Paper* Collective

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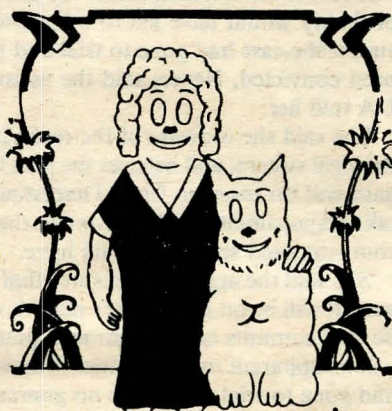
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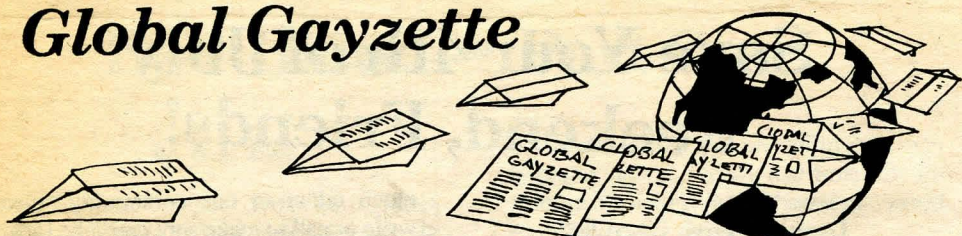
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## Commission pushes for change in Mass. Foster care policy

A Massachusetts commission charged with studying that state's foster care system has recommended new rules that would effectively overturn the controversial policy that prohibits lesbians and gay men, among others, from being foster parents.

On a 15-2 vote, the Special Commission on foster care proposed adoption of a new policy that would not make two-parent "traditional" families a priority for placement.

The commission said that the goal of foster care is to provide children with a "stable and nurturing environment," and included sexual orientation as one of 11 factors to consider when foster parent are being selected. The others are age, race, ethnic background, religion, sex, marital status, economic status, employment status, geographic location and education.

"None of these factors should be an overriding determinant in a person's eligibility to become a foster parent," the commission wrote, "but they may be very important in the placement of a particular child in a particular foster home....Again, the ultimate standard in each case must be: Can this foster home provide a temporary, stable, nurturing environment for the child?"

Kevin Cathcart of Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders, the group representing two men from whom the state removed foster children in their legal challenge of the policy, said the case will go forward until the policy is changed. Governor Michael Dukakis, a three-term Democrat who is said to have presidential aspirations, reportedly will make a decision after hearing a recommendation from the state's Human Services secretary, Philip Johnston.

## Gaybashing Complaint filed against Boston Firefighters

An application for a criminal complaint was filed in Boston Municipal Court in late January, naming three Boston firefighters as the assailants of two lesbians and a gay man. Publicity about the incident, which occurred in November, led to front-page media coverage in Boston and reportedly to a police department internal affairs investigation as to whether arrests should have been made at the scene.

The people who were assaulted said they were walking past a Massachusetts Avenue fire station when they were jumped by the trio, who called them "faggots" and "queers." One woman's arm reportedly was twisted severely enough to require her to wear a splint; the other woman and the man were bruised and shaken up, reports

said.

The men were later identified as firefighters who were off-duty at the time of the assault. The police department investigation is centering on how the incident was handled when officers arrived. Katherine Triantafyllou, who is the attorney representing the lesbians and gay man, said it was "a bit unusual" that the victims had to go to the police station to file a complaint, even though officers arrived when the alleged assailants still were there.

The firefighters reportedly have filed a cross complaint of assault and battery against the victims, and one of them filed a cross-complaint against his two co-workers.

The alleged assault was publicized shortly after statistics were released by the Boston Police department that showed that racial incidents involving blacks and whites have decreased sharply in recent years, but violent acts still are committed regularly against Asian people and lesbians and gay men.

## Gay Money Floods Chicago

A couple of bar owners in Chicago last summer launched a protest that has turned the heads of the powers-that-be in that metropolitan area, as paper currency with "Gay \$" stamped on it in red has flooded the market. The protest is in reaction to the defeat of a civil rights bill by the Chicago City Council last July. That angered Marge Summitt and Frank Kellas, who own bars in Chicago, so they went out and bought 100 stamps with the "Gay \$" logo on them and enlisted many of the city's other bar owners in their campaign.

Months later, an uncountable number of bills have been stamped, and authorities have taken steps to quash the protest. Specifically, the local U.S. Attorney issued a warning to those responsible for the stamping, using the publicity in mainstream media publications such as the *Chicago Tribune* and *Sun Times* to identify those behind the effort. But that hasn't daunted Chicago's lesbians and gay men, and reportedly the warning was seen as laughable by those outside the community as well.

A local bank also reacted, refusing to recirculate the money, returning it instead to the Federal Reserve Bank. That prompted activists to picket the bank and withdraw savings they had on deposit.

The "Gay \$" campaign and some associated activism is being hailed by observers as a sign of change within the Chicago community. Previously, rejection of a civil rights bill led to periods of inaction, but this time, it appears lesbians and gay men are determined to keep pressuring for full civil rights guarantees, by demonstrating their economic clout and their willingness to persevere politically.

## China issues strict HIV testing rules

Foreign students and scholars wishing to study in China now must submit to HIV antibody testing upon entry to that nation.

The Associated Press recently reported that as of January 1, all of those entering China to study must take the test. The objective of the policy is to prevent the spread of AIDS in China, where only one case of the illness has been recorded to date. That involved a visitor from Argentina who died while on a tour.

The new policy does not require business people, journalists or diplomats to submit to the antibody test. Students and scholars who arrived in China prior to January 1 can volunteer to take the test, but it is not compulsory. Reportedly, some foreigners are refusing to take the test.

## Gay Prisoners can Kiss in Oregon

Lesbian and gay prisoners in Oregon now can kiss and embrace members of the same gender who visit them, the state's corrections division ruled recently. The pronouncement came after the American Civil Liberties Union complained about the treatment of a male prisoner who had been observed by a guard kissing a friend's hand. The punishment given to the prisoner, 23-year-old Wesley M. Johnson, was that for 15 days he was required to meet with visitors in a special room equipped with a plastic divider.

The rules applying to prisoners in Oregon now says clearly that gay men and lesbians are subject to the same rules as others — they can hold hands and have one kiss and one hug up on the arrival and departure of visitors.

The corrections Division's legal advisor said that prison officials will still "encourage" lesbian and gay inmates not to kiss, embrace or hold hands with visitors of the same sex, but there won't be punishment if the advice is ignored.

The situation is reminiscent of that which occurred in Maine in December, 1985, when officials revoked the visitation rights of Peder Baughman for kissing his lover, Danny Nutting, at the State Prison in Thomaston. That incident led to coverage on the national television news when the Maine Civil Liberties Union got involved on Nutting's behalf.

## Indiana, Colorado Quarantine Proposals

The specter of quarantine for people with AIDS is again rearing its head. In Indiana, the state health commission has asked the General Assembly for authority to quarantine carriers of the virus "who put others at risk." And in Colorado, lawmakers appear ready to approve a broad bill that would give the state wide powers to test, trace and quarantine those believed to be infected with the HIV virus.

Indiana Health Commissioner Woodrow A. Myers Jr. says his aim is to stop only those carriers of the virus who refuse to take steps to prevent transmission to other people. To that, Michael Jones of the In-

diana Civil Liberties Union responded: "How is the state going to pinpoint those who are candidates for this confinement?"

In Colorado, activists are pessimistic about the likelihood of stopping the quarantine bill. The Department of Health is backing the measure, which would define AIDS as a communicable disease, impose strict reporting requirements about those testing positive for the HIV virus and give state and local health authorities power to isolate, detain and/or quarantine anyone suspected of posing a threat to the public health. There is nothing in the Colorado AIDS bill calling for public education or insurance protections for people with AIDS, and activists say it is an even more reactionary measure than that which was narrowly defeated last year.

In a related development, a bill filed in the Indiana Senate would bar a couple from obtaining a marriage license if either partner tested positive for the HIV virus. State law currently prohibits those who test positive for venereal diseases from obtaining marriage licenses. Health Commissioner Myers said the HIV test would not be given to all applicants for marriage licenses however, only those in "high risk groups" — gays and intravenous drug users. He did not say how town and city clerks will determine if applicants fit those categories.

## PC Users show homophobia

The editor of a magazine dedicated to discussion of personal computers has taken heat from readers and at least one advertiser since he wrote an editorial criticizing Georgia's sodomy law.

Editor David Bunnell, who is heterosexual, reportedly received more than 1,000 letters in response to the editorial, about 80 percent of which were critical. The editorial spoke about the need for people to be judged for who, rather than what, they are, and noted that a large number of high tech workers are gay. He said he wrote the editorial because much of the personal computer industry is based in Georgia, not the only state with a sodomy law, (there are 24 others), but the one tied to the recent U.S. Supreme Court case in which the sodomy law was declared constitutional.

One advertiser, Peachtree Technology, Inc., located in Atlanta, pulled \$8,000 worth of advertising. Its president was quoted as saying "If the guy wants to push his ideas about gay sex, he doesn't get to do it with my \$8,000."

Some letters from readers criticized Bunnell for running an editorial on a political subject in a computer magazine, apparently believing there's no connection between politics and computers. Others simply clipped the column and returned it after writing "queer" or "fag" on it.

Bunnell said he doesn't regret writing the editorial and thinks it's "important for people to speak out and say what they believe."

*continued on page 7*

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## Maine Health Foundation

by Doug Cruger

Since 1983, when it was founded, the Maine Health Foundation, Inc. has had as its number one priority raising the money necessary to educate our community and the community at large about AIDS and to make possible direct services for people with AIDS and ARC. The foundation has continually worked to help raise the consciousness of Maine people about both the risks and unsafe sex practices and to assist those who deal directly with AIDS patients.

Through Foundation fundraisers, auctions and raffles sponsored by businesses and groups from Ogunquit to Lewiston, and through the generous contributions of the general public, we have been able to contribute substantially to the AIDS Hotline, a Coordinator of Support Services, the campaign to distribute educational brochures, and the statewide AIDS Forums coordinated by the Maine Lesbian and Gay Political Alliance.

Our work continues, and our commitment continues to grow. Late last year the Foundation concluded an agreement with The AIDS Project (for whom we have always been a principle funding agent) to pay for the space necessary for The AIDS Project to work and expand its services. Under that agreement, the Maine Health Foundation has agreed to underwrite the costs of maintaining office and work space in Portland, and the state of Maine has agreed to fund projects which the Foundation had previously underwritten. This

is a major accomplishment toward the goal of getting the state to assume its responsibility for AIDS related services. It is also a major new commitment for the Maine Health Foundation.

To reach its 1987 goals, the Maine Health Foundation is undertaking two major Spring projects. The first is the Maine Health Foundation Benefit Ball, to be held in the Eastland Ballroom of the Sonesta Hotel, Portland, on Saturday evening, March 7, 1987. It will be a black tie affair, including an evening of dinner and dancing. Dr. Owen Pickus, of Portland, is honorary chair of the event. Tickets to the ball are \$50.00 each, and may be obtained by calling the Foundation President, at 773-3564.

The Foundation is also sponsoring a benefit performance of the Portland Stage Company production of the highly acclaimed Broadway play, "The Fifth of July," by Langford Wilson, originally produced in 1980 for the Broadway stage. The Maine Health Foundation benefit performance will be held Sunday evening, April 19, 1987. Tickets are available through local businesses and the Foundation Board of Trustees.

Maine Health Foundation is working hard to expand AIDS-related services for Maine people. We are a non-profit, tax-deductible Maine corporation, and contributions, large and small, are urgently needed. Checks made payable to the Maine Health Foundation, Inc. may be sent to P.O. Box 7320 DTS, Portland, Maine 04112.

## Maine Bisexual People's Network

The Maine Bisexual People's Network was founded in April of 1986. We are a diverse group of women and men ranging in age between twenty-four and fifty-four. We are couples, singles and friends. We are feminists, artists, parents, health care workers, students and teachers. We have created a safe, confidential place where anyone, regardless of sexual preference, can explore issues around intimacy and have fun.

We see ourselves as pioneering new ways of developing individual identities regardless of labels, creating fulfilling relationships, and challenging stereotypes within ourselves. We celebrate our diversity and look at ways to develop unity between the gay and straight communities through educating ourselves.

We are planning on-going discussion groups to be held at the University of Southern Maine on the first Friday of every month and continuing pot-luck dinner every third Sunday. For more information call the Gay, Lesbian Alliance at 780-4085. MBPN is a part of the East Coast Bisexual Network which organizes an annual conference in the spring and a weekend retreat in the summer.

A speaker is available from MBPN for group discussions. Please write or phone us at least two weeks in advance:

Maine Bisexual  
People's Network  
P.O. Box 1792  
Portland, ME 04104  
780-4085

## Cathcart To Keynote MLGPA Celebratory Dinner

by Elze

Kevin Cathcart, the executive director of Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders (GLAD), will keynote the Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance's annual meeting and celebratory dinner on March 14 in Augusta.

Founded in 1978, GLAD, New England's public interest gay and lesbian law organization, has been instrumental in challenging the Massachusetts foster care policy, which virtually prohibits gay men and lesbians from becoming foster parents. Addressing AIDS-related discrimination is another priority of the agency.

MLGPA's annual event, which will usher in the group's third year, is scheduled for The Senator Inn and will include an afternoon lobbying workshop, an evening buffet and awards presentation, and a dance with music by Augusta D.J. David Neal. A social hour with a cash bar will

begin at 5:30 p.m.

The business meeting will commence at 12 noon with a summary of the year's activities and the election of officers and steering committee members.

Boston City Councillor David Scondras, last year's keynote speaker, may return to discuss the upcoming March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay rights that is planned for October.

"We're hoping many people will turn out for this year's celebration," said Barb Wood, an organizer of the event. "We've accomplished a lot this year and we're entering another busy legislative session in which MLGPA will be very active and visible."

The cost of the dinner is on a sliding scale (\$15-\$30). Tickets can be obtained by sending a check or money order by March 6 to: MLGPA, P.O. Box 108, Yarmouth, Maine 04096.

## Save Your 4th of July Weekend, Friends!

Greetings From BAGLSC!

BASGLSC, for those who may not know us, is a human rights organization with a very special emphasis on maintaining a visible lesbian and gay presence in the greater Bangor area. We came together in July 1984, over the murder of Charlie Howard, a young gay man, who was thrown off a Bangor bridge to his death after a "queer-bashing." That Charlie did not die in vain, BAGLSC is proof. Among BAGLSC's many activities, we organize an annual Charlie Howard Memorial Day service, March, and human rights celebration.

On July 3, 4, and 5, 1987, Symposium XIV, in conjunction with Charlie Howard Memorial Day, will be celebrated in the Bangor-Orono community. BASGLSC members are working, with friends from Wilde-Stein, a big boost from Bangor Interweave, and an invaluable assist from Northern Lambda Nord, to bring you a memorable weekend. We are most enthusiastic (and already occasionally exhausted!) in our efforts to bring you recreation, inspiration, workshops, funshops, films, fun, and flaunting! We are all "Coming Out For Freedom," and we invite you, individuals and organizations to join us!

BAGLSC hopes to make this a regular column in *Our Paper* to keep you informed of activities as they unfold. We invite you to send your ideas, encouragement, and life savings. Well, I'm kidding about your life savings, but donations of any amount are greatly appreciated! Send to: BAGLSC, 87 Sunset Strip, Brewer, ME 04412.

We also need and want your talent. Do you sing? Play an instrument? Do impersonations? Come on. Don't be shy. Let us know if you'd be willing to perform! Let us know if you have a friend we should encourage to perform! Much of this frivolity will occur Friday, July 3. There is so

much talent in our community, please write or call to make sure you'll be included! Performance time will be limited, but resumes and auditions are not required.

The nuts and bolts of the gatherings are still being finalized, but here's how it looks so far. On Friday, July 3, registration begins at noon. The fee is \$15. Dorm overnights are an additional \$7 per night (includes Saturday night dinner). Throughout most of the Symposium there will be films, games, and a variety of activities. Friday afternoon and evening will also include funshops and a talent show. Numerous outrageous ideas are in the planning stages, so stay tuned! We hope also to provide an on-campus cash bar, as well as both alcohol-free and smoke-free conference spaces, and an AA meeting.

Saturday begins at 9:30 a.m. with formal welcomes, announcements and "Gaerobics," followed by a 10 a.m. keynote and a full day of workshops, films, fun, a community dinner, and dancing from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.

On Sunday, the Charlie Howard Memorial Day Service will be held in Bangor at 10:30 a.m., followed by a noon-time march through Bangor and a gathering for human rights with special guest speaker, Darrell Yates Rist.

Rist, who resides in NYC, is a contributing writer at *New York Native* and *Christopher Street* and a frequent contributor to other publications as well. He is the 1987 writer-in-residence at the Fund for Human Dignity, and founder of the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation. Also a filmmaker, the multi-talented Rist has made numerous media appearances as an advocate for lesbian and gay rights.

So, mark your calendars for Independence Weekend and pack a bag for Bangor! It promises to be one weekend you won't want to miss!

JoAnne Dauphinee, for BAGLSC

## Chamber Responds To Lambs' Inquiry

by Elze

Northern Lambda Nord (NLN), Maine's northernmost gay and lesbian organization, received a reply from the Caribou Chamber of Commerce to its latest inquiry about Chamber policy toward the group.

Following the Chamber's rejection of NLN's donation made in December for several "Welcome to Caribou" signs, the Lambs asked Chamber Executive Director Cindy Hebert whether any contributions form the organization would be accepted for future Chamber fundraising projects. (See *Our Paper*, February 1987.)

The Lambs also asked if the Chamber

would accept a paid advertisement from NLN for the 1987 Winter Carnival booklet.

In a letter to NLN, as reported in the gay organization's February newsletter, Hebert stated, "The nature of most of our fundraising activities is of such an unplanned and impromptu nature, often in the form of requests brought to us, that it is impossible to make a definitive statement regarding the purposes and participative posture of same."

Hebert also told the group that the Winter Carnival booklet had been sent to the printer's prior to the receipt of their letter.

### announcement

Dignity/Maine, an organization for Gay and Lesbian Catholics and their friends, has begun meeting in Portland. Part of an international organization of over 100 chapters in the U.S. and Canada, Dignity/Maine will meet on Sundays from 5:30-7 p.m. (doors open at 5) at The First Parish Church, 425 Congress St., Portland (rear entrance). Refreshments served. All are welcome.

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# Bad Blood - Part One

by R.J. Bass

(This is a two-part series on syphilis. This month's column will discuss the history, cause, transmission, and symptoms of the disease.)

Traditionally, few diseases were as closely associated with the term "VD" as syphilis. Documentation of syphilis occurs in the Bible and many other ancient writings. Historically, it was known as "The Great Pox," the lues, syph, the French disease, the Italian disease, the English disease, the Spanish disease, and "Bad Blood." Among the famous, King David, Roman Emperor Caius, King Henry VIII of England, (and two of his children, Edward VI and Mary Tudor), Christopher Columbus, Napoleon Bonaparte, Catherine the Great, Benito Mussolini, Benjamin Franklin, and James Joyce were syphilitic. Joyce employed syphilis as a metaphor for moral decay in his masterpiece, *Ulysses*. In recent American history, a major scandal in medical research involved a federally-funded study of individuals with syphilis at Tuskegee Institute in Alabama. The subjects of the study, all of whom were Blacks, were followed for decades but were never offered any treatment for their syphilis, which many of them eventually died from. This study was conducted from 1929 to 1972!

At the time of the out break of World War One, syphilis was extremely prevalent in the United States and Europe. During the war, 50% of the population of some European cities was infected with syphilis. The control of syphilis became a top priority of the U.S. Public Health Service, which promoted the reporting, diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of the disease. By 1938, 38 nations had signed the Brussels Agreement, a pledge to provide facilities to diagnose and treat venereal disease among the merchant seamen.

Even with the increased efforts to combat syphilis, it is estimated that during the late 1930s, 60,000 children were born annually with congenital syphilis (caught before birth from infected mothers). Prostitutes generally took the blame for the spread of syphilis, but pre- and extra-marital affairs and the embarrassment of the medical profession were equally responsible, if not more so. The reluctance of physicians to treat the disease (because "nice people don't talk about syphilis") caused many patients to seek relief in valueless treatments and patent medicines.

By the beginning of World War Two, syphilis was treatable with a drug called Salvarsan, an arsenic-based preparation, but the treatment took 18 months. In 1943,

it was discovered that penicillin effectively cured syphilis. Since that time, the incidence of syphilis in the "western" world has continually declined.

Unfortunately, in the past few years, the declining trend has been reversed in two areas: gay men, who account for half of all new cases reported nationally, and the state of Maine, which posted a doubling of its reported cases in one year, from 1985 to 1986. Interestingly, while the number of cases in American gays continues to rise, the percentage of cases attributed to Maine gays decreased from 50% in 1984 to 22% in 1985, and to 19% in 1986. Public health officials credit this decrease to safe sex practices adopted by many of Maine's gay men.

Exactly what causes a disease capable of vexing the human race for so many centuries? Syphilis is caused by a corkscrew-shaped bacteria named *Treponema pallidum*. These organisms are also called spirochetes. Other trepanosomes cause yaws and pinta, which are tropical diseases.

Syphilis is a sexually transmitted disease. Primary infections usually occur in the mouth, genitals, or anus. Syphilis is transmitted when the spirochetes enter the body through broken skin or mucous membranes during sexual intercourse (vaginal, anal, or oral). Transmission occurs in thirty to fifty percent of contacts.

Syphilis is also transmitted from infected pregnant women to their fetuses. This results in congenital syphilis. Very rarely, it is transmitted by blood transfusion. Syphilis screening of blood donations is routine.

Transmission between women is virtually unknown in this country, but bisexual women are just as vulnerable to syphilis as heterosexual women.

Syphilis progresses through several distinct stages, each typified by different characteristics. The first stage is *incubation*, during which there are no symptoms. Incubation can range from one week to three months, but averages about two to four weeks.

At the end of incubation, the symptoms of *primary* syphilis begin. The classic symptom is a sore called a chancre. Chancres appear at the location of sexual contact — mouth, penis, scrotum, vagina, cervix, vulva, anus, rectum, and the perianal area (the area around the anus). The chancre is an ulcer with raised, hard edges. It is often painless. Nearby lymph nodes may be swollen. The person is contagious in this phase.

Among gay men, 50% of the chancres are located in the rectum; because they are painless, the chancres may go undetected unless a thorough anal exam is performed.

Chancres appear singly, not in groups. Even if the person is not treated, the chancre disappears in 2-6 weeks, although lymph nodes may remain swollen for months.

If syphilis is not treated during the primary stage, it progresses to *secondary* syphilis, usually 6-8 weeks after the chancre has healed. In some cases, it can take as long as 6 months for secondary syphilis to appear, while in other cases, this stage becomes evident before the chancre is gone. In this stage, a person may feel fluish, with achey joints and muscles, fever, appetite loss, weight loss, headache, and sore throat. Two-thirds of infected people will develop a rash that is highly typical of secondary syphilis. The rash is often seen on the palms and soles; it may be spread over the body, and it affects both right and left sides. The rash might itch, or it might not. It may be very faint and nearly unnoticeable. The appearance of such a rash is enough to warrant a blood test for syphilis.

Other rashes of secondary syphilis are large, flat warts called "condyloma lata." They are smooth, grayish-white to pink or red, and appear between the buttocks, in the perianal area, inside of the upper thighs, on the scrotum, in the armpits, and between the fingers and toes. Condyloma lata are very contagious. The other rash affects the mucous membranes of the mouth and genitals. Silvery-gray in color, this rash is simply referred to as "mucous patches."

Lymph nodes may be swollen in the secondary stage. Other affected areas include the liver (symptoms will mimic hepatitis), the eye (eye pain, difficulty with vision), brain and spinal cord (headaches, stiff neck), and hair roots (increased hair loss or patchy areas of baldness). The person is still very contagious.

Again, the symptoms will eventually disappear, regardless of whether or not the person is treated.

During the next stage, called *early latent* syphilis, there are no symptoms. This stage covers the period of time from the disappearance of the secondary symptoms till the end of the first year of infection. Sometimes, the symptoms of secondary syphilis will recur in the early latent phase. Sometime after the first year, when there are no more relapses of secondary syphilis, the person is in the *late latent* stage, and, at last, is no longer contagious. Even without further treatment, two-thirds of infected individuals will experience no further problems.

The remaining third go on to develop the serious complications of *tertiary* syphilis. Within ten years, 15% will develop ulcers,

called gumma, on the skin, mucous membranes, tongue, hard palate of the mouth nasal septum, bones, muscles, or internal organs. Within 20-30 years, 10% of untreated people will develop disease of the heart and blood vessels, called "Cardiovascular syphilis." There are about 200 cases of cardiovascular syphilis reported annually. Another 10% will develop "neurosyphilis," a disease of the brain and nervous system which leads to paralysis, memory loss. Poor judgment, speech problems, loss of motor coordination, and insanity. Neurosyphilis may also have no symptoms at all. Because of this, a person who has had syphilis for more than a year may need to have a spinal tap in order to diagnose the condition.

Luckily, the complications of late latent and tertiary syphilis are rare.

(Next month, this column will cover the diagnosis, treatment, followup and prevention of syphilis.)



## CORRECTION

In the February, 1987 issue of *Our Paper*, the article titled, "The 'Modern Problem' of Herpes" contained an error that read, "Good communication, including a discussion of health, should preclude sexual contact with new partners." The sentence should have read, "Good communication, including a discussion of health, should precede sexual contact with new partners."

Sorry, Peaches.



## announcement

A public forum, "AIDS: Facts and Issues," will be held on Wednesday, March 18 at 7:00 p.m. at Mount Ararat High School in Topsham. Scheduled speakers will include Dr. Lani Graham from the State Bureau of Health, Joshua Noble and Gary Anderson from The AIDS Project, and a person with AIDS. The event is free and open to the public. Donations of non-perishable food, men's clothing, and linens will be accepted. The event is sponsored by people in the Bath, Brunswick, and Freeport areas who are hoping to organize a group to provide support for people with AIDS and their families in the area.

PSSST!

## Playing Safely Stops Transmission

We know a lot about AIDS. We know what causes it; we know how to avoid getting it (or giving it to others).

We also know that AIDS is on the increase in Maine. As of December 1985, there were 12 cases of AIDS in Maine. As of December 1986, that number was 34. By the end of 1987, Maine could have twice that number.

Safer sex and risk reduction techniques can reduce your chances of getting infected with the AIDS virus.

Use condoms; avoid the exchange of semen or blood-contaminated body fluids; and if you inject drugs, DON'T share needles.

Play safe sex and stop the transmission of the AIDS virus in Maine.

For more information, call the AIDS-Line: In greater Portland, 775-1267; anywhere in Maine, 1-800-851-AIDS.

(The AIDS Project, 48 Deering Street, Portland, ME 04101)

## AIDS Update

As of January 21, 1987, there have been 37 males (and no females) diagnosed with AIDS in Maine. Of these people, 27 came from southern Maine, 7 from central Maine, and 3 from northern Maine. Thirty-three (88%) were gay or bisexual men, 2 (6%) were IV drug users, one (3%) was a hemophiliac, and one case (3%) was transfusion related. Of these people, sixteen have died. Nationally, as of January 5, 1987, there have been 29,137 cases of AIDS diagnosed.

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## Condoms

continued from page 1

predicted there will be major changes at the national and local levels "within the next year" on the question of advertising condoms.

WMTW-TV is also reconsidering its policy. General Sales Manager Mary Jo Snyder says that she personally favors allowing condom ads in later time periods and says that the station's general manager also "has no problem" with the idea. Snyder says she has become informed on the issue through articles in trade magazines and a discussion at a seminar she recently attended. Snyder anticipates changes in the current policy and says she "would push for it [condom ads] if we were on the fence." Snyder adds that she believes any ads "should be tasteful."

Farther north, Margo Cobb, General Manager of WBLZ-TV in Bangor says that her station will be considering a policy of condom advertising geared toward health protection rather than contraception. The other Bangor station (WABI) and the Presque Isle station will continue to adhere to their network's policy. Towle Thompkins, Program Director of WABI TV (Ch. 5, CBS) in Bangor believes it is unlikely that the manufacturers will seek out his market. Thompkins says, "While Portland is the 78th largest market in the country, Bangor is number 154. Chances are they would advertise up to market number 100." Although WABI is adhering to the current CBS policy, the station has begun airing public services announcements about AIDS hotline. Viewers calling the number will be sent written information about AIDS, Thompkins said.

Unlike the television stations, none of the eleven newspapers surveyed by *Our Paper* have policies specifically prohibiting condom ads. Most have not considered the issue yet or are planning to use their existing standards to determine the suitability of particular ads.

Mark Sullivan, a spokesperson for the *Portland Press Herald*, said that although the paper does not have an established policy he believes they "would probably run" condom ads if they were in good taste. "We are not censors. If they were honest, upright, and done correctly, we would accept them," he said.

David Platt, editor of *The Maine Times* echoed Sullivan's sentiments. He said that he would have no objection to condom ads directed to either birth control or AIDS prevention if they were "tastefully done. We would feel hypocritical not running those ads," Platt said. "We believe in freedom of expression. It would not be logical to censor those ads."

Bennie Green, the editor of *Sweet Potato*, a weekly music and entertainment tabloid, said that he would definitely ac-

cept condom ads although he doubted the issue would arise. "I'd be surprised if someone from the Trojan Company ever heard of *Sweet Potato*," Green said.

*The Central Maine Sentinel* in Waterville has not established a policy on condom advertising, although advertising manager Ron Uecker says he "personally does not have a problem with them" and doubts that the newspaper executives would.

Representatives of several other newspapers said they would deal with the question of condom ads if and when it comes up and would make their decision based on the specific copy presented to them. Several agreed with *Lewiston Sun-Journal* publisher Jim Costello who said, "The issue is not what is being advertised but how it is done. Anything can be done tastefully."

Several people indicated they felt it was very unlikely that small newspapers in Maine would be approached by marketers of condoms. Russell Webster, advertising director of the *Kennebec Journal* in Augusta, stated that he "hasn't seen anything to indicate that manufacturers will be seeking ads in markets of this size."

Will the condom manufacturers seek to advertise in Maine? According to spokespersons for Ansell-Americas (manufacturers of LifeStyles brand condoms) and the Carter-Wallace Co. (manufacturers of Trojans), there are no immediate plans to target Maine. Tricia Falco, publicist for Ansell-Americas, says the LifeStyles campaign which featured a young woman saying, "I enjoy sex, but I'm not ready to die for it," was intended for the national media. Although the company is attempting to increase the number of TV affiliates carrying the ad, she didn't know if Maine stations would be approached at this point.

Susan Kleinman, a spokesperson for the public relations firm dealing with Trojans advertising, says that the eventual goal is to have ads in all 50 states. "It is a question of timing and which markets are amenable," she said. Kleinman added, "The situation is changing every day."

Meanwhile, in light of Surgeon General Koop's pronouncements on the need for AIDS education, the Congress is becoming involved in the debate on condom advertising. A congressional hearing was held in late February at which representatives of the television networks were called upon to discuss their policies.

The debate will not end soon. Even small-town Maine newspapers may have to formulate policies on condom advertising and media in the larger southern Maine market may soon be called upon to make decisions on ads submitted to them by condom manufacturers.

## Assault

continued from page 1

gay men in Portland. (Reportedly, such attacks have been renewed recently, especially in the Spring Street area. There was no time to investigate before this edition of *Our Paper* went to press. Watch for a story in next month's paper.)

The incident involving Deschaine began when he verbally harassed two women who had just left *Entre Nous* and ended with him punching and kicking Nevers, Scott and another woman, all of whom had come to the assistance of the first pair. Charges were not brought in connection with the assault on the third woman, who, like Nevers, suffered relatively minor injuries, because she did not file a statement with police until after the other two charges already had been brought against Deschaine.

An important factor in the plea bargain was the issue of substance abuse. Deschaine reportedly was drunk at the time of the assaults, and had just left Fairwinds, a bar next door to *Entre Nous*. Since the assault he has completed an alcohol abuse treatment program, Nevers said the assistant DA told her, and has sought additional counseling.

While that may impact Deschaine's future actions, Nevers is still anxious about the behavior of many other Fairwinds' customers. The bar has been the subject of many complaints, a Portland police detective acknowledged in an interview with *Our Paper* last fall. Fairwinds' liquor license was up for annual consideration by the City Council in January, and it was renewed despite a recommendation by the Police Department that it be denied, Nevers said. She was not at the hearing, but was told the vote was 5-4 to renew. *Our Paper* could not obtain more details before going to press.

Nevers said as long as Fairwinds is operating next door, she will warn all of her customers to be careful about walking alone. She said she will move her bar to another location if problems continue.

## Announcements

### WELLNESS GROUP

Would you be interested in joining a group to share in mutual Assistance, Information, Direction and Support for those affected by AIDS?

Our group hopes to include speakers on various topics, explore holistic and alternative therapies, and provide social activities and outlets for its members.

This is a non-political forum to provide a positive, sharing environment and to promote wellness. If interested in attending, or for more information, please call 774-6877 or 773-4104.

### AIDS Transformational Workshop: An Alternative to Despair

In this weekly group we will seek to go beyond the limited concept of physical illness to incorporate an expanded view of "dis-ease" in which the emotional, mental, and spiritual dimensions of illness are acknowledged and addressed. We will focus on our own obstacles to healing: our mental attitudes and their effect on our well-being, as well as repressed emotions that block healthy emotional expression. We will also seek to connect to our own source of energy, healing, and wisdom known as the higher self in order that we may begin to take control of our lives and move from a position of victimization to a position of experiencing our own power to direct our lives. Utilizing channelled insights from the spiritual teachers, we will attempt to clear emotional blocks, redirect negative mental attitudes, and rediscover our divinity.

Facilitator: Anwrag Shantam  
Meetings: Thursday, 4-6 p.m.  
The AIDS Project,  
48 Deering Street, Portland

For more information, call 775-7135 or 774-6877.

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# Global Gayzette

continued from page 3

## Scientists and Techies have own group

Lesbians and gay men who work as scientists, engineers, data processors or in other "high technology" professions now can join an organization dedicated to eliminating discrimination in their field.

Called NOGLSTP, an acronym for National Organization of Gay and Lesbian Scientists and Professionals, the group is based in Chicago and Los Angeles. It's goals are to bar discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, end the practice of denying security clearances to gay men and lesbians and change the government's policy of barring gay men and lesbians from immigrating to the U.S.

The organization has a record of successes in pushing for fair treatment of gay men and lesbians in the scientific and technical professions, including educational efforts with various professional societies within the umbrella heading of "science and technology." For more information about NOGLSTP, write NOGLSTP, Chicago, P.O. Box 14138, Chicago, IL 60614. To become a member or receive the newsletter, write to NOGLSTP/Los Angeles, P.O. Box 39582, Los Angeles, CA 90039.

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## NGLTF Privacy Project Update

The National Gay & Lesbian Task Force has been overseeing the consolidation of efforts by several national groups which are working to overturn sodomy laws in the states where they remain on the books. Feminist, political and religious organizations are working together to repeal the laws that effectively criminalize les-

bian/gay sexuality. Among those working in coalition with NGLTF on the Privacy Project are the National Organization for Women, the National Abortion Rights Action League, Americans for Democratic Action, the United Church of Christ and the American Civil Liberties Union.

Sue Hyde, coordinator of the Privacy Project for NGLTF, said it is vital that the laws be repealed in light of last summer's U.S. Supreme Court ruling that upheld the sodomy conviction of a gay man in Georgia who was arrested after a police officer entered his bedroom and found him having sex with another man. "The criminalizing of our sexuality is the criminalizing of our identities and status," Hyde said. "Sodomy laws define our sexual lives as criminal, unnatural, perverse and repulsive. We have no choice but to challenge and repeal these laws, state by state."

\*\*\*

## Youth Symposium to be held

A symposium and networking conference on lesbian and gay youth will be part of this year's National Lesbian and Gay Health Conference, to be held in late March in Los Angeles. It will be the first such symposium and is the result of a large number of conference papers on the subject of lesbian/gay youth being submitted to the conference.

A broad range of workshop topics will be offered during the one-day symposium, and it will be geared for professionals, both gay/lesbian and not, who work in the field of youth services. It is scheduled for March 25 at the Sheraton Universal Hotel, 333 Terrace Parkway, Universal City, CA. The sponsor of the symposium is the Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center. For more information, call (213) 464-7400 x-434.

\*\*\*

## Study in Progress on Lesbian Battering

A study on physical violence in lesbian relationships is being conducted by a Philadelphia sociologist who is seeking victims and survivors to complete a questionnaire. Dr. Claire Renzette, whose work has been endorsed by the Working Group on Lesbian Battering, needs testimony from women who've been in abusive relationships so the goal of raising the community's consciousness about lesbian battering will be realized. The eventual aim of the Working Group is to develop services for those who have been involved in relationships where battering is taking place, and for those who have survived such experiences.

Those who would like a copy of the questionnaire should send their name (or a pseudonym) and address to Dr. Claire Renzetti, 5600 City Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19131. For more information about the study or the Working Group's efforts, contact Shawn Towey at Women Against Abuse (215) 686-7082 or the Battered Lesbian Support Group, (215) 592-4583.


## San Francisco 'Welcome' Planned for Pope

An 'Official San Francisco 1987 Papal Welcoming Committee' comprised of two former members of the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence have registered legally with that city. The Sisters, a group of gay men who dress as nuns and mock the policies of the Catholic Church, are well known for their antics.

The former sisters who are gearing up for the Pope's visit, scheduled for September, are Gil Block and Gilbert Baker. They reportedly have come under criticism from others in the group for splitting off, and current members of the Order are threatening to go to court seeking an order that would prevent Block and Baker from using the name of the order to publicize their actions.

The papal visit is expected to bring out protesters from the gay community. Leaders of at least two groups have told the *Bay Area Reporter*, San Francisco's gay newspaper, that they expect large demonstrations against the Pope during the visit.

(Sources for news in this month's Gayzette were Sojourner, The Native, The Washington Blade, The Advocate, The Boston Globe, Bay Windows and The Works. It was compiled by Brenda Buchanan.)



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# —OUR PEOPLE:— Doing What Comes Naturally

## An Interview with Norwegian Novelist Gerd Brantenberg

by Elze

When lesbians in the United States were leaping with joy at the debut of *Rubyfruit Jungle* by Rita Mae Brown in 1973, little did we know that, at the same time thousands of miles away in Norway, a Norwegian lesbian-feminist had also just published a very lesbian book.

Gerd Brantenberg, 46, wrote her first book, *What Comes Naturally* (*Opp Alle Jordens Homofile*), in 1972 while living in Copenhagen, Denmark. Since then, this hilarious story about a young woman's coming out and growing up lesbian in a heterosexual world has been translated into Danish, Swedish, German and English.

Three years later, Brantenberg got her hands on a copy of *Rubyfruit Jungle*. "I was so happy when I read it," she told me last summer when I interviewed her during my brief visit to Scandinavia. "I really felt elated. I felt strong and confirmed in the life I was leading."

Brantenberg, who currently lives in Oslo, now has five other books to her credit: *Egalia's Daughters* (*Egalias Dotre*), a fantasy about a land where gender roles are reversed, with the wim (women) holding the power and the men-wim (males) at their mercy; *Yes We Stop* (*Ja Vi Slutter*), a diary about quitting smoking; *The Song of St. Croix* (*Sangen om St Croix*) and its sequel, *By The Ferry*

ed as a book in November with the title, *In Remembrance of Lusts Passed*, a play on Proust's *In Remembrance of Things Passed*. When I talked to Brantenberg last summer, they had compiled 172 titles.

Her current plans? Laughingly she said that she'd like to write "perverse stories." And become a pianist ("I'm not very good, but I enjoy it.").

But most of all? "I have great joy in writing," Brantenberg smiled.

**If you had to name three major influences on you that have contributed to who you are today as a writer, what would those be?**

That's too difficult to answer. There are some people, both personally and in writing, I admired a lot, or events that have influenced me, but it's hard to say to what extent this one has come through in the way I write.

I feel I was very much alone in writing my first book. At the time I wrote it, we were very isolated as lesbians. We were only starting to have the lesbian movement here.

**Why did you write the book *What Comes Naturally*?**

I felt it was a basic statement I wanted to make if I wasn't going to make any other. But I had been writing all my life and I had always wanted to write. I wanted to write a book. Then, I wanted to write

**"I felt there were so many other things I couldn't express in just being funny. I wanted to write more descriptive prose which would enable me to get into deeper levels of the human soul."**

(*Ved Fergestedet*), two novels based on Brantenberg's childhood experiences growing up in Fredrikstad; and *Embraces* (*Favntak*), a lesbian love story.

Unlike the young woman in *What Comes Naturally*, "I have never had any great difficulty in coming out," Brantenberg said. "I've always thought I had all the right in the world to be exactly like I am." She attributes the ease to a very supportive family.

Brantenberg holds a Philosophy Degree (history, social science, and English) from the University of Oslo with a concentration in English literature. A teacher for many years, she began writing full-time in 1982 when she gave up her teaching upon receiving a 3-year writer's scholarship from the state. Now she is partly supported by a 3-year scholarship from the Norwegian Writer's Union, the trade union for writers.

Last year, Brantenberg made her first trip to the United States, a tour arranged by Barbara Wilson of Seal Press, her American publisher and author of that great lesbian mystery, *Murder in the Collective*. Wilson successfully applied to the Norwegian Foreign Office to subsidize Brantenberg's trip. Here for almost two months, she visited Seattle and Tacoma, Washington; Portland and Eugene, Oregon; the Bay Area; Minneapolis; Chicago; Madison; Toronto; Vancouver; Boston; Northampton; and New York City.

Brantenberg loved Northampton. "It was one of the liveliest groups I had," she remembered. "I had never been to a college like that before — all women between 18 and 23 years old."

Long an active participant in Norway's feminist community, Brantenberg has been working for five years with a group of women compiling a bibliography of Scandinavian literature since 1900 in which love between women exists as a theme or subtheme. The project was to be publish-

this book, if no other. I chose this one because I felt this was a statement that had never been made before, as far as I knew. A statement about women loving women and the suppression of this love had never been made. I was wrong, but I didn't know it. Even a book like *The Well of Loneliness* wasn't known to me.

*We are told that in the United States of America women become lesbians because they are bored in suburbs while their husbands are on incessant business trips to the big cities. So they turn to each other. Besides, there is the tradition from the Wild West, where there were so many men to each woman that the women got fed up with men and turned to each other instead...*

*In Paraguay, on the contrary, they've always been at war with neighboring countries, which means there is a big surplus of women, since most of the men have been killed in some war or other. Therefore it's quite natural that the many surplus women seek out each other for comfort and intimacy...*

*In Sweden there are an awful lot of lesbian women, because in Sweden the women are so liberated that they realised long ago how stupid it is to be subordinated to men. But in Spain the women are so oppressed that they cling to each other to escape from their brutal husbands. In France the situation is very complicated. Here the women are oppressed because of Roman Catholicism, but on the other hand, they're liberated thanks to Satre and his almost-wife, or whatever you call it — Simone de Beauvoir, I mean — and this uncertain state of affairs has caused so much confusion among women that they have become lesbians...*

*I presume that these theories were totally unknown to you. I can only recommend you to start reading all the extensive scientific writing on the subject. And then you'll see that when one finally realises that one is*

Photos: Elze



a lesbian, one feels that one is the bearer of great cultural traditions.

From *What Comes Naturally*,  
(The Women's Press Ltd., London, 1986)

**Did you have a difficult time getting it published?**

No. Not at all. I just wrote it. I had an idea since I was 13 years old from my Norwegian teacher. He told me how he had once published a book. He just sent it to the biggest publisher in Norway. So, I did that 17 years later and they wanted it. That was great. But they did not realize I had intended it as fiction. They took it

**"It has been a struggle to get to the point where I tell myself, 'I am a writer and I'm going to do that.'"**

as a kind of debate book. They even wanted it to be my autobiography which it wasn't. It's basically fictitious. So I wasn't reviewed in the usual way when a new author appears in this country. There wasn't a literary evaluation of what I had done. It was only reviewed as a kind of debate book. I was very sore about that for a long time, so I changed publishing houses. That's one of the many subtle ways lesbians are discriminated against.

**Is humor special to you?**

I don't sit down and decide I'm going to be funny. I write the way I write. It just comes out. I don't really plan to write in a certain style. But the motivating power behind it for me is a feeling of anger at stupidity. My anger at stupidity has a tendency to be transformed within me and come out again in the form of ridicule. You can parody it. That's a question of temperament.

I think it's the same process, even more so, with *Egalia's Daughters*. It's a parody on the oppression of women. It's a way of saying indirectly what you think of it.

**And it works. There was nothing profound in *What Comes Naturally*, but it was so clever. And it's also very affirming.**

I felt that, too. I haven't always felt good about the book. Sometimes I have thought it was just sweeping over a number of very difficult problems. I did make some changes in this version to give more of a background story about relationships.

**What happened when the book came out?**

That book was one of many things that happened around the same time. The lesbian movement began in Oslo and

The idea, itself, though, is very old to me. I got that idea when I was about 20 years old. I started to write a book which I called *Feminapolis* about a very normal, young Norwegian man who just suddenly woke up outside of town and didn't know where he was and he started walking towards this town and he noticed the population there was so strange. All the people he thought were women were dressed up in a uniform and all the people who looked like males were wearing all sorts of color and decorating themselves and chattering along the street.

I stopped writing it because I became confused myself. It had to be a romance and I couldn't understand which gender this very normal Norwegian man of mine should fall in love with in this upside-down world. I didn't know about *Herland* at the time, Charlotte Perkins Gilman's book which came out in 1913.

Then I made it different. I didn't let there be any alternative consciousness present in the book at all. It's just there. You have to go into it or not at all. I didn't plan that either, but when I think about afterwards, it becomes even more terrible when there is no alternative consciousness present. There is nowhere to go back to. Even Gulliver had England he may return to. That's more the model satire is often built on. When there's no going back, it's more like what it really is.

But all these are comments I make afterwards. I believe in inspiration. I experience inspiration. I have an inspiration and I write something and I don't really know why I do it this way. Afterwards, just like any critic, I can sit and think it has this and that function.

*But Petronius didn't want (a peho). The boys said it was awkward and uncomfortable cramming your penis into that stupid box. And it was so impractical when you had to pee. First you had to loosen the waistband which held the peho in place. The waistband was fastened under the skirt, so you stood fumbling for a long time, especially at first. The waistband was usually too tight and it cut into the skin. Moreover, you had to sew a slit into each of your skirts so the peho might hand freely outside. Some said the peho was scrat-*

**"We've had quite a big struggle having a Norwegian culture at all and keeping our heads above water to survive as a nation and as a language. We feel very close to each other in that respect. It makes it easier for me to be accepted as a mainstream writer."**

Copenhagen in 1974. We were starting to have lesbian groups. There were lesbian papers and magazines coming out. We were having demonstrations and protests. There was a lot of activity. The book was part of that setting.

The issues were similar to those for women in the U.S., but the social setup was different. From the impression I get from reading American books and speaking with Americans, the pressure on women to be heterosexual, to look like dolls, is greater in the U.S. Femininity, appearance, clothes are more important in the U.S. Even among lesbian-feminists who write books, I think it's a striking fact that they tend to describe clothes more than we do. They tell the reader what the characters are wearing.

**What inspired you to write *Egalia's Daughters*?**

The oppression of women is ridiculous. The arguments for things remaining that way are so very stupid. The book tries to show that. I didn't do long-term planning on how to put this. It came naturally.

*chy, too; others said this depended on the material. It was possible to get pehos in really soft cloth that caused no irritation, but they were expensive and Petronius didn't think he dared ask for a peho like that.*

From *Egalia's Daughters*  
(The Seal Press, 1985)

**How has your writing changed since your first book?**

I wrote three humorous books running — *What Comes Naturally*, then *Egalia's Daughters*, and then *Yes, We Stop*, a book on the experience of stopping smoking. I got tired of just making people laugh. I felt there were so many other things I couldn't express in just being funny. I wanted to write more descriptive prose which would enable me to go into deeper levels of the human soul.

I returned, as so many writers do, to my own childhood and the setting of my hometown and wrote about a fictitious community based on my own with fic-

*continued on page 10*





# Global Gayzette

continued from page 3

## Scientists and Techies have own group

Lesbians and gay men who work as scientists, engineers, data processors or in other "high technology" professions now can join an organization dedicated to eliminating discrimination in their field.

Called NOGLSTP, an acronym for National Organization of Gay and Lesbian Scientists and Professionals, the group is based in Chicago and Los Angeles. Its goals are to bar discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, end the practice of denying security clearances to gay men and lesbians and change the government's policy of barring gay men and lesbians from immigrating to the U.S.

The organization has a record of successes in pushing for fair treatment of gay men and lesbians in the scientific and technical professions, including educational efforts with various professional societies within the umbrella heading of "science and technology." For more information about NOGLSTP, write NOGLSTP, Chicago, P.O. Box 14138, Chicago, IL 60614. To become a member or receive the newsletter, write to NOGLSTP/Los Angeles, P.O. Box 39582, Los Angeles, CA 90039.

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## NGLTF Privacy Project Update

The National Gay & Lesbian Task Force has been overseeing the consolidation of efforts by several national groups which are working to overturn sodomy laws in the states where they remain on the books. Feminist, political and religious organizations are working together to repeal the laws that effectively criminalize les-

bian/gay sexuality. Among those working in coalition with NGLTF on the Privacy Project are the National Organization for Women, the National Abortion Rights Action League, Americans for Democratic Action, the United Church of Christ and the American Civil Liberties Union.

Sue Hyde, coordinator of the Privacy Project for NGLTF, said it is vital that the laws be repealed in light of last summer's U.S. Supreme Court ruling that upheld the sodomy conviction of a gay man in Georgia who was arrested after a police officer entered his bedroom and found him having sex with another man. "The criminalizing of our sexuality is the criminalizing of our identities and status," Hyde said. "Sodomy laws define our sexual lives as criminal, unnatural, perverse and repulsive. We have no choice but to challenge and repeal these laws, state by state."

\*\*\*

## Youth Symposium to be held

A symposium and networking conference on lesbian and gay youth will be part of this year's National Lesbian and Gay Health Conference, to be held in late March in Los Angeles. It will be the first such symposium and is the result of a large number of conference papers on the subject of lesbian/gay youth being submitted to the conference.

A broad range of workshop topics will be offered during the one-day symposium, and it will be geared for professionals, both gay/lesbian and not, who work in the field of youth services. It is scheduled for March 25 at the Sheraton Universal Hotel, 333 Terrace Parkway, Universal City, CA. The sponsor of the symposium is the Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center. For more information, call (213) 464-7400 x-434.

\*\*\*

## Study in Progress on Lesbian Battering

A study on physical violence in lesbian relationships is being conducted by a Philadelphia sociologist who is seeking victims and survivors to complete a questionnaire. Dr. Claire Renzette, whose work has been endorsed by the Working Group on Lesbian Battering, needs testimony from women who've been in abusive relationships so the goal of raising the community's consciousness about lesbian battering will be realized. The eventual aim of the Working Group is to develop services for those who have been involved in relationships where battering is taking place, and for those who have survived such experiences.

Those who would like a copy of the questionnaire should send their name (or a pseudonym) and address to Dr. Claire Renzetti, 5600 City Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19131. For more information about the study or the Working Group's efforts, contact Shawn Towe at Women Against Abuse (215) 686-7082 or the Battered Lesbian Support Group, (215) 592-4583.

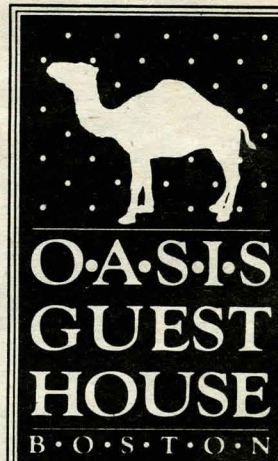
## San Francisco 'Welcome' Planned for Pope

An 'Official San Francisco 1987 Papal Welcoming Committee' comprised of two former members of the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence have registered legally with that city. The Sisters, a group of gay men who dress as nuns and mock the policies of the Catholic Church, are well known for their antics.

The former sisters who are gearing up for the Pope's visit, scheduled for September, are Gil Block and Gilbert Baker. They reportedly have come under criticism from others in the group for splitting off, and current members of the Order are threatening to go to court seeking an order that would prevent Block and Baker from using the name of the order to publicize their actions.

The papal visit is expected to bring out protesters from the gay community. Leaders of at least two groups have told the *Bay Area Reporter*, San Francisco's gay newspaper, that they expect large demonstrations against the Pope during the visit.

(Sources for news in this month's Gayzette were Sojourner, The Native, The Washington Blade, The Advocate, The Boston Globe, Bay Windows and The Works. It was compiled by Brenda Buchanan.)



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### Three

an empty place  
the chairs covered by old blankets  
the television blaring for company.  
a dog in the corner his hide quivering, his eyebrows  
two V's of fear.  
there are two men here who may as well be alone  
all their pushing and pulling and exhaling is like a windy mantra  
neither is privy to.  
one periodically scans the wall,  
his eyes drawn eventually to the television.  
two insane cartoon animals are trying various ways  
to kill each other.

12/5/86

Brian Crabtree

### Blowjob

As senses go  
the hardest to lose,  
the easiest to take for granted  
is touch.

my hands run up and down your back  
reading each bump like erotic braille.

It is much more  
than a gathering of blood,  
an evacuation of fluids from their tiny little premises.  
Inside it is the only thing that matters...  
Outside the absurdity would be apparent

your pants at your ankles  
your spine heaving before the empty windows.  
But now as the text of your back flies off its page,  
we have escaped temporarily from pounding the  
ice-encrusted  
world out there.

1/18/87

Brian Crabtree

### SHARP

Corrupt? you tell me.  
I was shaving and my eyes shifted across the foggy surface  
of the mirror  
A man was drying his wide back with a sawing motion.  
Distracted I nicked my cheek and a thin red line  
etched itself slowly through the white planes of the shaving cream  
as he put his head in the towel and bent over to dry his hair,  
I pressed my finger to the cut,  
trying to stop the welling flow.

12/20/86

Brian Crabtree

### A Home Coming

I remember the last time I saw him;  
He got up, dressed without a word.  
He didn't face me  
our eyes never met.  
Near the door  
he carefully arranged his hat  
and pulled his bleached locks  
over his perfect forehead.  
He threw his scarf around his neck  
looked at me once  
and left.  
Now, looking back,  
I can see his eyes  
their deep starry grey color  
subtly defined by charcoal eyeliner.  
As our affair came to an end  
so did my intimate relationship  
with London,  
so I left and came here.  
Finally home.

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George Benington, Portland Monthly 1986

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### sitting in the park on thursday

there's me  
and the guys  
(just a bunch of fags)

we're all looking  
for something      did we lose?  
to fill                what?  
a whole              where?

over there - the guy with the great bod'!

-what a hunk

(God, I wish he were GAY!)

we're becoming very active you know  
in "our" politics  
and it appears that...

-he's getting closer

-hot basket!

(-what I'd give for just  
5 minutes in bed with him and...)

did you hear?  
Hardwick vs. Bowers set us back  
50 years!  
society is so damn ignorant, so narrow-minded  
so...

-take a look at that boy

-he is so cute!

-tight ass

(sigh)

-isn't he just...

too much emphasis on  
sex roles - really!  
we have the right to be  
intimate, to love other men  
regardless of...

-those fucking straights

-will you look how he treats her!

-all they think about is  
tits and ass - how disgusting!

-straight guys have  
no respect for womyn

-how can she let him  
do that?

-It's...

obvious to us  
that in order to reduce  
our oppression, we must begin  
to take action  
to educate the masses  
dispel the myths  
lobby the courts  
and...

STOP!  
take a look at ourselves  
and realize,  
we're just the same -

aren't we?

steven j. hardy

### The Finish Line

A poem for my friend Lanny who died in December.

By B.J. Aaron

The finish line was just ahead  
No competition leading or close behind.  
A test of endurance, a race with fate.  
Short of breath, full of fear, muscles aching;  
He continued to push on.  
A sweaty brow, trembling hands, a pounding, heavy heart,  
The odds stacked against him, he continued on.  
Doubt and sadness met up with him from time to time,  
As did the temptation to throw in the towel and quit.  
Pain was always with him, as if he ran with a rock in his show.  
But the race was not finished.  
Sportsmanship and honor called him to finish.

Friends lined the course with love, hope and encouragement.  
He gave his thanks and bid farewell and passed by.  
Those closest to his heart were there near the end of the line;  
But at the finish only silence.  
No crowds to cheer. No ribbons to be awarded.  
Only the Master awaiting him.  
An embrace and a welcome home.  
A welcome back from a race well run and alas a peaceful rest.  
Ah, sweet rest!

### Unable to Sleep on a Wet Night 2 Days After the Sixth Anniversary of John Lennon's Death

Closetted angel-heroes  
playing out heterodramas.  
Sheathed swords  
glistening with  
each brush  
of accidental longing.  
Youthful emotions  
of longing desire  
suppressed — beaten  
into dark recesses  
of perversion —  
like starving creatures  
screaming for  
the acceptance  
of holy society.  
Only fantasies  
to release feelings,  
long complicated  
games of self-created delusions.  
The slightest contact  
taken as intimate sex.  
Devirginizing youth  
by the touch  
of a finger  
to a jocular nipple.  
Glimpses caught  
of nude athletes  
in showers after practices,  
disrobing in lockerrooms,  
taken as supreme  
sexual encounters,  
the highest romanticism.  
The crude remarks  
of rednecks — unimportant —  
transformed into  
sexual invites  
exciting thrilling  
creating ever more fantasies.  
Creating ever more doors.

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## Portraits in a Gallery

### I, Her Majesty

Cigarettes burn rubies for  
Queens dazzling with tinsel  
Charm. Mirrors jostle spotlight-  
Eyes crowded to attention.  
She moves in any direction  
Unhindered, ruling domains of  
Leather black and infra-red,  
Checking the frozen-water gaze  
Of votaries with opal flashes;  
Jealous of her trade,  
Pruning with vulture-viciousness  
The carcass of competition,  
Dealing in back-room whispers  
Calumnies sharp as  
Diamond's cutting edge.

### II, Designer Jeans

Chiaroscuro of the bar  
Brings you out of darkness  
Like an old master ageless  
In painted pose; a blank  
Stare questioning interest in  
What's so commonplace and boring,  
Letting go each cruise, each pass.  
Old masters jaundice with varnish.  
Your lacquer eyes merely holes  
Instead of windows of the soul.  
Too much preserved with liquor,  
our languidness floats  
On the thick formaldehyde of  
Smoky air. Your time will pass,  
Sweetheart, and with each drink  
And with each cigarette fix  
You in the permanent collection.

### III, The Hustler

Tangerine light feathers  
The geometry of your muscles  
As touch, as feeling  
As mental state reeling  
To the jig of masculinity.  
Borrowing against your gleaming idol  
Cheats me - bankrupts my  
Pride, my self-respect,  
Beating against the golden bars  
Of your arms, our legs,  
Traps me a galley slave  
In bondage whipped to  
Sweaty musk, going down  
In prayer at the knees of  
Your indifferent self  
Accepting was due the coinage  
Of my interest in the denim  
Lips of your crotch.

### IV, and in this Corner

Dismal stars dissolve from  
Attention like aspirin.  
Buried in the blanket darkness,  
Observing with drooling eyes  
The game-play of love-making,  
Too shy to action they  
Scribble sex on bathroom  
Walls and masturbate alone  
In corners, stroking fantasies  
Til closing hour sends them home  
Where all their loves are in  
cellophane,  
Wrapped for safety from  
Lonely semen and salty tears.

### V, Chaps

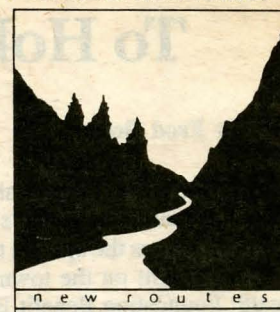
Exoskeleton visored like  
The majestic beetle of a  
Japanese horror flick  
Sending intimidations  
Down spines and up rectums  
While the curious look  
On as at an escapee from  
A computerized sci-fi film-  
some special effect.  
Chain-mauled master  
Thrust masculinity out,  
Rimmed in smoky mist,  
A fire-breathing dragon,  
Sex-machine bound in  
The nun-black hide of a bull.

### VI, You and Me

The ordinary cruise by  
Swinging cigarettes like  
Censers supplicating, or  
Stand in rows, acolytes  
Of some solemn ritual.  
Eyes jumbled like bones  
In ancient lottery rattling  
Out the day's selection,  
Settling, at last, on eyes  
As taunt with questionings;  
Initiates dumb but for  
Signs of secret society  
Murmuring gestures  
whispering  
Of rescue and seduction

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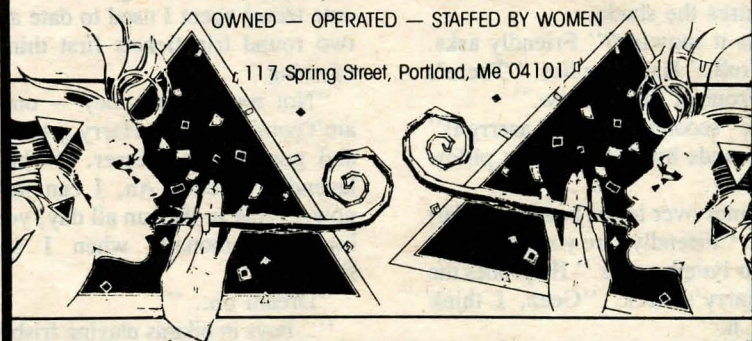
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# Maine Health Foundation

## To Hold Benefit Ball

by Fred Berger

Following on the heels of the highly successful Visual Aid auction, Maine's latest AIDS fundraiser invites the upscale to step out for a formal night on the town. The Maine Health Foundation Benefit Ball, a dinner dance and floor show, will be held on Saturday, March 7 in the Eastland Ballroom of Portland's Sonesta Hotel.

The evening will begin with a cocktail hour from 7:00 to 8:00 followed by dinner, dancing to the Charlie Brown Orchestra, and a performance by Delux Productions. Delux is well known in the area for a series of hilarious cabaret productions which began in Geno's basement pub and progressed to the Beachcomber at Old Orchard Beach.

Is Maine's gay community ready for black tie? According to Marcel Gagnon, chairperson of the event, "A lot of people are very interested in the idea. We are not appealing only to gay people but to all sorts of professionals — the people who attend benefits sponsored by the Art Museum, the Heart Association, the Cancer Society, etc." Gagnon said he is "very hopeful" that the Maine Health Foundation will

reach its goal of a \$10,000 profit from the event. Gagnon is aiming for attendance by at least 250 people.

As a means of keeping the organization's expenses down, the organizers are seeking corporate or individual sponsors to underwrite specific aspects of the event such as the space rental and food costs. All profits will be used by the Maine Health Foundation for AIDS-related purposes. In the past the Foundation, an organization of gay business owners and professionals, has funded the AIDS-Line and the part-time support services coordinator of the AIDS Project. Currently MHF pays the monthly rent for the AIDS Project office at 48 Deering St. in Portland.

Chairperson Gagnon is being assisted by committee members Robert Whitehead and Crandall Toothaker. Dr. Owen Pickus is serving as honorary chairperson. The committee has sent out over 500 invitations. Anyone wishing to receive an invitation or become a sponsor (all contributions are tax deductible) should contact Dr. Owen Pickus, c/o Maine Health Foundation, P.O. Box 7329 DTS, Portland, ME 04112, or call 773-3564. All tickets will be sold in advance at the price of \$50 per person.

## The Adventures of Macho and Friendly Goodbye Maine, Hello Key West

By Bull O'Nee

*It's Sunday morning in the household of Harry and Friendly. Friendly lies in bed. Harry has just gotten up to look out of the window.*

"Don't do it," Friendly begs. "Don't open that window quilt. If I see one more snowflake, I'll lose it. I can't take this weather one more minute." He buries his head in the pillow.

Harry raises the shade.

"Well, is it snowing?" Friendly asks.

"I can't tell," Harry replies. "There's a drift in front of the window."

"On the second floor! Aaarrgh!" Friendly pounds his fists into the pillow uncontrollably.

Harry comes over to the bed to comfort his partner. "Friendly, are you okay? Let me feel your lymph nodes." He probes the back of Harry's neck. "Geez, I think you've got it."

Friendly bolts upright. "Got what?" he gasps.

"CABIN FEVER!" Harry laughs.

"You're damn right I've got it. Can we get out of this place, please?"

"Okay," Harry replies, "let's plan a vacation."

"No vacation, honey. I'm talkin' goodbye — adios — adieu. Forever. I've had it!"

"Well, where should we go?" Harry asks.

"I don't know, someplace free, someplace where we can walk down the street holding hands, kiss when we want to..."

"Provincetown's a little cold this time of year."

"Not Provincetown, someplace warm. How about Key West?"

"Key West sounds great. I'll call up that cute travel agent I used to date and order two round trip tickets first thing in the morning."

"Not round trip honey — one way! I ain't comin' back." Harry gets out of bed and goes to his dresser. "Where's my lavender speedo? Ah, I can just see it now...lying in the sun all day, you bringing me lemonade when I snap my fingers..."

"Dream on..."

"...boys in bikinis playing frisbee on the beach, dancing 'til dawn. I ain't never coming back."

"You sound serious," Harry interrupts.

"I am. I've had it with this turkey town. We bare our souls every month in that *Our Paper* rag and what do we get? Not one letter of appreciation. I'm going where I'll be appreciated for my beautiful body and soul. They'll have to beg if they want me back! Goodbye, Maine."

## Buffy's Back

Never in a million years would I have dreamed of this...a sequel!! It's a very exciting thing for me. Of course, I can't take all the credit...well I could...it would be unfair to my agent. It was his idea for the most part. Speaking of my agent, he was the reason I missed you all last month. For the first time in his life, he went skiing. Worked his muscles to a frazzle! He stayed in bed all month. I had to give him a daily rub down...so it wasn't all wasted, he kept me busy. Rub downs are not all hot oil and over-heated hormones you know. Enough of this personal nonsense; let's get to the meat of this.

On the top of the list, I am happy to announce our return to the place I hold dear in my heart. Maine Sweet Maine!! California was getting old so David and I packed our essentials and headed East. To those of you who know the feeling of leaving home for a long period of time and yearn to be back with your loved ones, I share the same feelings. Don't get me wrong, travelling is simply divine for the soul. But it's nice to know you have a place to hang your hat (or tiara, as I do. A small gift from Di. It's not like she broke her savings account on me...\$1.5 million...nothing really expensive.)

Good news and bad news...I finally let Joan schedule me for her show. She announced me as a special guest, that would be in at the end of the show. WELL, one of her other guests spilled her cocktail on my very expensive shoes while we were backstage. (I wanted to rip her face off!) I couldn't appear on national television with stained shoes. I have a reputation to keep. During the commercial I told Joan the bad news and she felt sorry and hurt. Poor dear, I broke her heart. She was so nice and understanding, the next week when she came to visit, she had brought me two pair of new shoes and a bottle of expensive stain remover. She is such a character.

The dinner party for my friends in the music world went simply marvelous. Each of the girls sang me a special song. I don't usually get teary-eyed, but when George Michael sang "Careless Whisper" especially for little ol' me, well I just lost it!! Smeared my mascara; looked like a raccoon (a very sophisticated raccoon, of

## Part Two

course). The part that scared me...Miss High Society...I didn't care HOW it looked. I must be getting old.

My goodness how could I forget!?! Coming home from the West Coast, I saw a very dear friend of mine from Florida. She, too, is writing for a local paper in Jacksonville. She writes an advice column that is very popular with all the girls down there. She told me I should start my own column. I don't have a clue of what to write to people who come to me with problems of love lives. Personal experiences I could write a book that would put *War and Peace* to shame. Anyway, I have to talk to my agent and see what he thinks. Who knows, I may be answering some of your letters in the near future. Of course it would mean you, the reader, would have to include a self-addressed stamped envelope. I hate licking those dreadful little 1" x 1" pieces of paper we know as stamps. Honey, it ain't worth twenty-two cents to gag myself with that glue that was once a riding horse for some rich bitch from the middle of Texas. After all...I have my pride.

Now I would like to take a minute to address a certain "sixty second" subject. COMMERCIALS. Granted, they help sponsor the great television shows...like DYNASTY. But why so many? In one hour I learned I could buy a brand new car with "NO MONEY DOWN," by some nasally sounding local. Then I found out that panty shields have wings. No, I haven't seen them. At my age who needs them. Also, I can now douche with new pine-scented disposables. That's fine if you're married to a lumberjack. To end it all, Lorne Green tried his dog food pitch and Michael Landon "sold" me insurance...a bonanza of a deal. I simply can't handle it. They serve one good reason...just enough time for me to powder my nose and fill my champagne glass.

Mercy, how time flies and so must I. Going shopping for a new mink. My private jet awaits me at the airfield. Where am I going? The fashion capital of the world...Paris, France. Where else can a girl be in fashion heaven plus meet a real Frenchman to wine and dine a poor little rich girl like me. TA TA!!

LOVE,  
BUFFY LOUISE.

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AIDS Action of Central Maine  
P.O. Box 3113  
Lewiston, Me. 04240  
AIDS Hotline 782-6113

AIDS-Line  
775-1267 and 1-800-851-AIDS  
Mon. & Wed. 6-9 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

The AIDS Project  
48 Deering St.  
Portland, Me. 04101

Bangor INTERWEAVE  
P.O. Box 8008  
Bangor, ME 04401

Bates Gay/Lesbian/Straight Alliance  
Box 569  
Bates College  
Lewiston, ME 04240

Bangor Area Gay/Lesbian/Straight Coalition (BAGLSC)  
c/o 87 Sunset Strip  
Brwer, Me. 04412

Bowdoin Gay/Lesbian/Straight Alliance  
Bowdoin College  
Brunswick, Me. 04011

Chiltern Mountain Club  
P.O. Box 407  
Boston, Mass. 02117  
207-883-6934

Feminist Spiritual Community  
9 Deering St.  
P.O. Box 3771  
Portland, Me. 04104  
773-2294

Fredericton Lesbians and Gays  
Box 1556, Station A  
Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada

Free To Be  
11 King St.  
Augusta, Me. 04330

Friends and Parents of Gays  
725-4769 (Brunswick)

GLM (Gais et Lesbiennes de Moncton)  
C.P. 7102  
Riverview, N.B., Canada

Gay/Lesbian Alcoholics Anonymous  
c/o First Parish Unitarian Church  
425 Congress St.  
Portland 04101

Gay/Lesbian Parents Support Group  
780-4085 or 772-4741  
Portland

Gay/Lesbian Alliance  
92 Bedford St.  
Portland 04102  
780-4085

Gay Men Social Association  
P.O. Box 294  
Conway, N.H. 03818  
Tel: 603-367-8304

Gay and Lesbian Genealogy Club  
P.O. Box 1044  
Bangor, Me. 04401

Lesbian/Gay Committee  
Me. Chapter Nat'l. Assoc. of Social Workers  
P.O. Box 5112, Station A  
Portland, Me. 04101

Lovers Only Friendship Club  
P.O. Box 1044  
Bangor, Me. 04401

Greater Portland N.O.W.  
P.O. Box 4012 Station A  
Portland 04101

Harbor Masters Inc.  
P.O. Box 4044  
Portland, Me. 04101

Maine Bisexual People's Network  
P.O. Box 1792  
Portland, Me. 04104  
780-4085 (messages)

Maine Connection  
P.O. Box 5245,  
Station A  
Portland, Me. 04102

Maine Health Foundation, Inc.  
P.O. box 7329 DTS  
Portland 04112

Maine Lesbian Feminists  
P.O. Box 125  
Belfast 04915

Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance  
P.O. Box 108  
Yarmouth, ME. 04096

New Hampshire Citizens Alliance for Gay and Lesbian Rights  
P.O. Box 756  
Contoocook, N.H. 03329  
603-228-9009

Northern Lambda Nord  
P.O. Box 990  
Caribou, Me. 04736  
NLN gay Phonenumber, 498-2088

Our Paper  
P.O. Box 10744  
Portland, Me. 04104

Portland Pride Committee  
P.O. Box 5112, Sta. A  
Portland, Me. 04112  
883-6934

Seacoast Gay Men  
P.O. Box 1394  
Portsmouth, NH 03801

USM Women's Forum  
University of Southern Maine  
92 Bedford St.  
Portland 04103

Vermonters for Lesbian and Gay Rights (VLGR)  
Box 281  
Hinesburg, VT 05461

Wilde-Stein Club  
Memorial Union  
University of Maine - Orono  
Orono 04469

Women's Community Project  
P.O. Box 3733  
Portland, Me. 04104

## Meetings

### SUNDAYS

**Bates Gay/Lesbian/Straight Alliance** — for discussion, support and planning — every Sunday, 8:30 p.m. in Hirasawa Lounge, Chase Hall, Bates College, Lewiston.

**Northern Lambda Nord** — last Sunday of the month — business meeting, 1 p.m. followed by potluck.

**Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance (MLGPA)** — every third Sunday of the month. Meetings rotated throughout state. See Calendar listing for location and time.

**Dignity/Maine**, every Sunday, 5:30-7 p.m., First Parish Church, 425 Congress St., Portland (rear entrance).

### MONDAYS

**Feminist Spiritual Community** — every Monday at 7 p.m., Friends Meeting House, Forest Ave., Portland, 773-2294 (come early).

**Seacoast Gay Men** — every Monday, 7-9 p.m. (except first Monday and holidays). Unitarian-Universalist Church, 292 State St., Portsmouth, NH (side door near basement). Call Mark, (207) 646-2748.

**Greater Bangor NOW**, fourth Monday of every month, 7-9 p.m. Call 989-3306 for info.

**AIDS Action of Central Maine** — first Monday of every month at Sportsman's, 2 Bates St., Lewiston, 8 p.m. Call Phil Ellis, 784-5047 or 782-6113.

**Adult Children of Alcoholics (ACOA)** — open discussion with focus of gay/lesbian issues, 7:30-9 p.m. YWCA, 87 Spring St., Portland.

### TUESDAYS

**Bangor Area Gay/Lesbian/Straight Coalition (BAGLSC)** meets the second Tuesday of every month at 87 Sunset Strip in Brewer at 7:30 p.m.

**Greater Portland N.O.W.** — fourth Tuesday of the month, YWCA, 87 Spring St., Portland, 7:30 p.m.

**Alcoholics Anonymous — Gays in Sobriety** — every Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., First Parish Universalist-Unitarian Church, 425 Congress St., Portland.

**Gay/Lesbian Al-Anon** — every Tuesday, 7:30-8:30 p.m., First Parish Unitarian-Universalist Church, 425 Congress St., Portland.

**Our Paper staff meeting** — every Tuesday, 7:30 p.m. 9 Deering St., Portland. New members are welcome.

**Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays** — last Tuesday of the month, 7:30, First Parish Church Pilgrim House, 9 Cleaveland St., Brunswick. Call 725-4769 for information.

### THURSDAYS

**Bowdoin Gay/Lesbian/Straight Alliance**, every Thursday, 7-9 p.m., Chase Barn, Bowdoin College, Brunswick.

**Pride Committee** business and planning meeting, last Thursday of every month, 6:30 p.m., 48 Deering St., Portland. All welcome. Call 883-6934.

**Lesbian/Gay Alcoholics Anonymous** — every Thursday, discussion meeting at 8 p.m., Unitarian Church, Main Street, Bangor.

**VLGR (Vermonters for Lesbian and Gay Rights)** meets first and third Thursday of every month at 7:30 p.m. at the Peace and Justice Center, 186 College St., Burlington, VT.

**Greater Bangor N.O.W.** — last Thursday of the month, Bangor City Hall, 7 p.m. Call 989-3306 for info.

**Wilde-Stein Club** — Thursday evening 6-9 p.m., Sutton Lounge, Memorial Union, UMO.

**Gay/Lesbian Alcoholics Anonymous** — every Thursday, step meeting, 7:30 p.m. First Parish Unitarian-Universalist Church, 425 Congress St., Portland.

### FRIDAYS

**Free To Be Group of AA** — meets Fridays at 7:30 p.m., Jewett Hall, UMA, room 114.

**Gay/Lesbian Alliance** — every other Friday at 7 p.m., 92 Bedford St., Portland, 780-4085.

**Alcoholics Anonymous** meets every Friday, 8-9:30 p.m. — Gays Together in Sobriety (open discussion), Christ Episcopal Church, 80 Lafayette Rd., Portsmouth, NH.

### SATURDAYS

**Free To Be Gay/Lesbian Alcoholics Anonymous** — every Saturday, 8 p.m., The House, 60 Oak St. (corner Blake), Lewiston.

**Bangor INTERWEAVE Inc.** — Coffee house and dance, first and third Saturdays from 9 p.m.-1 a.m. at University College Center, Texas Avenue, Bangor. \$3. General meeting at 8 p.m. For info call 884-7079.

## Calendar

### Friday, March 6

Pride's Night Out Movie Night. Call for time and location of this month's selection, 883-6934.

### Saturday, March 7

Maine Health Foundation Benefit Ball, Sonesta Hotel, Portland, 7 p.m.

### Sunday, March 8

Mardi Gras Masquerade Party at Sportsman's, 2 Bates St., Lewiston, cash prizes, judging at 10:15.

### Saturday, March 14

MLGPA annual meeting and celebratory dinner, Augusta. Call 871-1555.

### Sunday, March 15

Chiltern Mountain Club Cross-Country Ski Trip to Jackson, N.H. Group will gather at Ellis River Covered Bridge on Rt. 16A in Jackson at 11 a.m. Non-members welcomed. Call for snow conditions: Michael, 883-6934.

### Friday, March 20

Portland Pride's video presentation on Boston Pride '86 and a 9 a.m. drawing for a Provincetown weekend, at Entre Nous, 117 Spring St., Portland.

### Friday-Saturday, March 20-21

Mr. Drummer New England Contest, The Underground, 3 Spring St., Portland.

### Sunday, March 29

Pride's monthly outing. Beachcomber's outdoor brunch at Scarborough Beach. Gather at 5th Ave. parking lot, Pine Point at 11 a.m. Dress warm and bring munchies to share. Details: 883-6934.

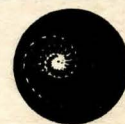
### Thursday, April 2 — Sunday, April 5

Ram Island Dance Company at Portland Dance Center: 773-2562.

Every Wednesday night, Val plays guitar at Entre Nous, 9-11 p.m.

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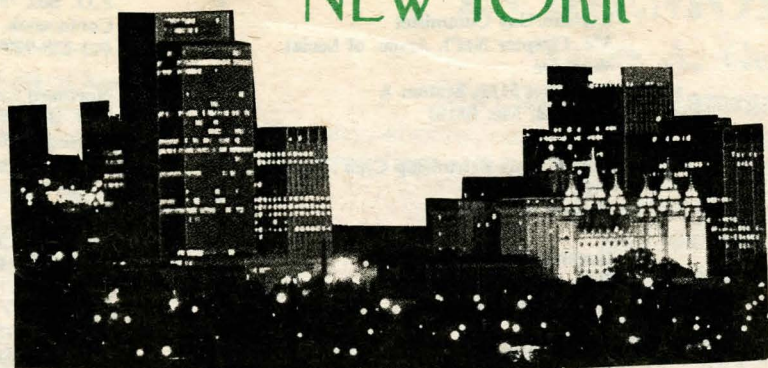
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